

## STAFF ROSTER

[Cine D. Ivery - Chief of Staff](#)

### Capitol Office

[Katherine Agard - Consultant](#)

[Stan DiOrio - Legislative Director](#)

[Elane Douglas - Managing Assistant](#)

[Jennifer Hanson - Director of Communications](#)

[Rozanne Jones - Scheduler /Executive Assistant](#)

[Emily Rice - Legislative Aide](#)

### Inglewood District Office

[Eboney Anderson - Scheduler /Executive Assistant](#)

[Cazzie Burns - District Rep](#)

[Samahndi Cunningham - Office Assistant](#)

[Alma Marquez - District Rep](#)

[Bill Orton - District Rep](#)

[Bernard Tolliver - District Rep](#)

□□□

## Upcoming Events...

**June 4 – White Suit Day**

**June 11 – CSBA luncheon recognizes 25<sup>th</sup> District small business owner**

**June 12 – Honoring CIF Track & Field Champions**

**In September, Wright will hold his annual School Readiness & Health Fair!**

## Greetings!

We are excited to bring you the April/May 2012 edition of our 25<sup>th</sup> Senate District E-Newsletter.

This newsletter covers the wonderful events in which I have had the opportunity to participate over the last couple of months, beginning with Cesar Chavez Day and culminating with the annual Student Honors Luncheon, held Saturday, May 19, at CSU Dominguez Hills.

It is always a pleasure to recognize bright young students for their academic efforts, and to meet with all of you at events throughout the District.

We hope you enjoy the new format of our E-Newsletter. It should allow us to bring you District news faster and more frequently.

As always, thank you for reading, and for your continued support as your State Senator.



**Advocates for the South Central Los Angeles Regional Center visit Wright's Capitol office in April.**

**Roderick D. Wright  
California State Senator**

## In this issue...

- 2012 Student Honors Luncheon
- California Youth of the Year Finalist
- Watts/Century Multi-Cultural Fiesta
- CA Science Center hosts Discovery Ball
- Port lunch supports Boys & Girls Club
- CSUDH send-off for Dr. Mildred Garcia
- Hawthorne Community Spotlight
- Gardena's "Outstanding Women"
- Wright recognizes Denim Day
- Arts & Aviation Career Expo
- Officials address Harbor Chamber
- Gardena Cinco de Mayo
- 20<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of Civil Unrest
- Lawndale "Pirate" Youth Parade
- La Tijera K-8 School grand opening
- Gala supports San Pedro aquarium
- Wright's Legislative Update
- "Justice for Murdered Children"
- Palos Verdes Chamber luncheon
- Hawthorne State of the City Address
- Preserving Compton Holiday Parade
- Community task force meetings
- "Putting the Father Back in Family"
- Social workers fight child abuse
- Installation of Pastor Shane Scott
- Honoring Washington Prep faculty
- Inglewood honors Cesar Chavez
- Family 1<sup>st</sup> kicks off at Jordan Downs
- "Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope"

## Senator Wright recognizes student achievement at annual luncheon

Senator Wright once again recognized outstanding graduating elementary, middle, high and adult school students in the 25<sup>th</sup> Senate District at his annual [Student Honors Luncheon](#). The students were chosen by their schools based on academic excellence, community service and/or overall self-improvement.

At the event, it was announced that San Pedro High School is the latest [recipient of a \\$5,000 Barona Education Grant](#). All student honorees were given certificates, and several won \$500 scholarships in an essay contest. Students who attended were also entered in a raffle for prizes generously donated by local businesses, including amusement park passes and the latest in high-tech gadgets. Sponsors for this year's luncheon, co-hosted by the National Family Life & Education Center, included GTECH, Pacific Gas & Electric, SCAQMD, BP America, Inc., AT&T, Time Warner Cable, Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Company, Nestle USA, Barona Band of Mission Indians, CA Cable & Telecommunications Association, Celgene Corporation and Cox Communications.

Wright praised the teachers and involved parents who provide the foundation to make these students' success possible. The program was once again directed by event emcee William Allen Young, best known as the star of the television programs CSI: Miami and Moesha, who was once a student in the 25<sup>th</sup> Senate District.

Guests were entertained by a student jazz ensemble and dancers from CSU Dominguez Hills, as well as a pair of dancers from Inspire Dance Ministries in the San Fernando Valley. Congresswoman Laura Richardson and Assemblywoman Holly Mitchell served as presenters. Opening remarks were given by CSUDH's Greg Saks. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by California Highway Patrol officer Dion Conley, and the invocation by Carson City Councilmember Mike Gipson.



Wright recognizes 2012 scholarship essay contest winners.

[\(Click here to view the full photo album from this event.\)](#)

## CA Youth of the Year finalist visits Capitol

In April, Wright welcomed Denzell Perry, [a finalist for California Boys & Girls Clubs' Youth of the Year](#), to his Capitol office in Sacramento. Perry, a senior at Dominguez High School who hopes to be a judge one day, is representing the Watts/Willowbrook Boys & Girls Club in the competition to become National Youth of the Year and receive a \$50,000 scholarship. Perry, one of four children of a hard-working single mother, credits the Boys & Girls Club with filling in for his absent father in a variety of ways, down to the little things like teaching him to tie a tie. Wright enjoyed talking to Perry about his college and career plans. He gave Perry a certificate of achievement and a Senate lapel pin to add to his already-impressive collection of pins.



Wright with Denzell Perry.

## Watts hosts multi-cultural fiesta

Wright was pleased to join the [Watts/Century Latino Organization](#) in celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Watts Multi-Cultural Cinco de Mayo Fiesta at the Watts Towers Amphitheater. The festival featured African, Korean, Aztec and mariachi dancers, as well as a wide variety of food and music and community resource tables. Watts Healthcare Corporation provided free health care check-ups and HIV tests to attendees. WCLO was formed in 1990 to work to improve quality of life for all Watts-area residents and to ensure that the needs of the growing Latino population are addressed.





## CA Science Center hosts gala

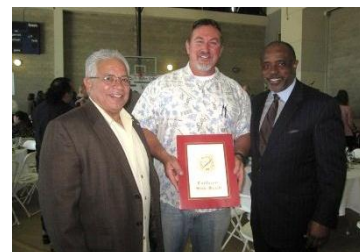


Discovery Ball 2012 took on Cleopatra theme.

Senator Wright joined close to 800 business and community leaders for the [California Science Center's](#) 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Discovery Ball. This year's black-tie gala showcased the West Coast premiere of "Cleopatra: The Exhibition" and featured dinner, dancing and entertainment, as well as a live auction. Proceeds from the Discovery Ball help sustain the model education programs and hands-on exhibits that make the California Science Center a world-class educational resource and family destination.

## Dockworkers, shippers support Boys & Girls Club

For the seventh year in a row, dockworkers and shippers set aside their workplace differences for the common goal of supporting the Boys & Girls Club of Los Angeles Harbor. This year's ILWU/PMA Luncheon raised about \$150,000 in donations for the 75-year-old organization, which offers recreation, tutoring and other services for thousands of children in San Pedro.



Wright greets ILWU Local 13 President Joe Cortez and board member Mark Jurisic.

## CSU Dominguez Hills bids farewell to Dr. Garcia



Wright and Assembly Members Steven Bradford and Betsy Butler honor Mildred Garcia.

Some 250 people converged on the CSU Dominguez Hills library for a farewell reception honoring Dr. Mildred Garcia, who is leaving to take the top post at CSU Fullerton. Wright presented a Senate Resolution to Garcia, the first-ever Latina CSU president, who helped CSUDH achieve record enrollment. Garcia, who has led CSUDH since 2007, will start her new job June 1.

## 25<sup>th</sup> District Community Spotlight: City of Hawthorne

City leaders in Hawthorne, California, see their community as a "Hub of the South Bay."

Surrounded by the I-405, I-110 and I-105 freeways and connected by rail to downtown Los Angeles and the Port of LA, Hawthorne boasts both a Mediterranean climate and access to all that Southern California has to offer.

Originally occupied by Native Americans as early as the 1500s, the land which is now Hawthorne was used for cattle grazing for generations before becoming a successful area for dry farming.

The addition of the railroad led groups of investors, such as the Hawthorne Land Company, to buy up towns and subdivide the land. Hawthorne was advertised as "the town between the city and the sea."

The first settlers, in 1906, were Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Anderson, whose son Glenn later served as Mayor, Lieutenant Governor and a member of the United States Congress.

Incorporated in 1922, Hawthorne has grown from its early agricultural roots into a community of nearly 89,000 residents with a balance of homes, businesses and industry.

Hawthorne started with a single grocery store and now has a speedy business licensing system, major retail complexes, three MTA transit stations and a municipal airport.

Residents are currently celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Beach Boys, one of the biggest names to come out of Hawthorne.

Other famous residents have included Marilyn Monroe, who lived

there as a young child, famed Native American athlete Jim Thorpe, for whom a park in the city is named, and 1992 Olympic gold medalist Michael Marsh, who held several state track & field records while running for Hawthorne High.



A monument marks the site where the childhood home of the Beach Boys once stood in Hawthorne.

## Gardena Chamber fetes "Outstanding Women"

The Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce held its first-ever "Outstanding Women" Luncheon, honoring more than a dozen area women for their contributions to the local community, including Senator Wright's long-time Chief of Staff, Cine D. Ivery (pictured above). Chamber president Wanda Love went to great lengths to make the recognition a surprise for Ivery, who is used to honoring others in her community.



Gardena Chamber's 2012 "Outstanding Women."

## Wright recognizes Denim Day



On Denim Day 2012, Wright signs CALCASA's pledge to help put an end to sexual violence.

Senator Wright joined the [California Coalition Against Sexual Assault \(CALCASA\)](#), more than a dozen legislators and hundreds of Capitol staff in wearing jeans on April 25 for "Denim Day." In 1999, the Italian Supreme Court overturned a rape conviction because the victim wore tight jeans, which she had to help her attacker remove, leading the court to say the encounter was consensual. Denim Day is held each year to protest destructive attitudes about sexual assault, like blaming the victim.

## TAM, CUSD host Arts & Aviation Career Expo

Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum, in Compton, hosted an Arts and Aviation Career Expo, sponsored by the Compton Unified School District. Senator Wright enjoyed addressing the crowd of young aviators, Tuskegee Airmen, school board members and elected officials, talking about different aspects of aviation, as well as his experiences as a pilot and his love of flying.



Wright meets with young participants at TAM's Arts & Aviation Career Expo.

## Elected officials address Harbor Chamber



Wright talks with Jacki Bacharach, executive director of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments.

A full house was on-hand for the Harbor City/Harbor Gateway Chamber of Commerce's Annual "Communicate with Your Government" Luncheon. Wright spoke to the crowd about his SB 1099 on new business regulations, as well as lawsuit abuse on issues such as ADA enforcement. His legislation and talk about the type of California we want to have drew some of the most sustained applause of the event.

## Gardena parade celebrates Cinco de Mayo

Senator Wright rode in the Gardena Cinco de Mayo parade and later addressed the 300 or so attendees at Mas Fukai Park. The day's festivities included presentation of the queen and her court, a number of classic cars and performances by young dancers from Nuestras Raices Folklorico. Gardena Mayor Paul Tanaka attended, as did Councilmembers from both Gardena and Inglewood.

Wright joins the Queen and her court at the Gardena Cinco de Mayo celebration at Mas Fukai Park after the City's parade.





## Community leaders mark 20 years since Civil Unrest

RDW joined elected officials from throughout the Los Angeles area, and a packed house of community residents and local media outlets, for the 20<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Service of the 1992 Los Angeles Civil Unrest at First AME Church. Danny Bakewell, Sr., introduced the Reverend Al Sharpton, who was the main speaker for this event. Sharpton spoke about how much has changed in these past 20 years, and – referencing the Trayvon Martin tragedy and recent officer-involved shootings – how much, sadly, has not.



**Wright with First AME Pastor John Hunter and Danny Bakewell, Sr.**



**Lily, councilman Pat Kearney's granddaughter, high-5s Wright.**

## Wright rides in Lawndale's "Pirate Days" Youth Parade

Wright headed over to Lawndale for the annual Lawndale Youth Day Parade. This year's theme was "Pirate Days." The festive parade stretched just over two miles and included an array of marching bands, dancers, classic cars and other entertainment.

## Inglewood celebrates opening of La Tijera School

The mood was celebratory as Wright joined school officials and community leaders for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the official grand opening of La Tijera K-8 School in Inglewood. The \$24 million state-of-the-art campus, featuring dozens of desktop computers and a fitness center, is a bright light amidst the struggles of the district and is expected to lead to increased enrollment.



**Inglewood celebrates La Tijera school opening.**

## Grunion Gala aids San Pedro's Cabrillo aquarium



**Joe Buscaino and Wright at the 2012 Grunion Gala.**

Senator Wright was dressed to the nines at San Pedro's DoubleTree Hotel for the Grand Grunion Gala, a popular annual event supporting the [Cabrillo Marine Aquarium](#). Los Angeles City Councilman Joe Buscaino emceed the event and pledged ongoing support from the City for the aquarium. Wright's district includes San Pedro, including the aquarium and the entire Port of Los Angeles; Buscaino is a resident of the community.

## Legislative Update

Senator Wright has 19 bills which could still come up for a vote this year. As the second year of the 2011-12 Legislative Session, any bill not passed and signed into law this year will have to be reintroduced and begin the process all over again in 2013, if its author wants to continue to pursue the issue.

The following measures are still moving for Wright this year:

[SB 320](#) Welfare Fair Hearings

[SB 415](#) L.A. Coliseum

[SB 475](#) Private-Public Infrastructure

[SB 477](#) Inglewood Loan

[SB 937](#) Alcoholic Beverages: Licenses

[SB 939](#) Natural Gas Public Purpose Charges

[SB 965](#) Water Permits

[SB 968](#) Bail/Electronic Monitoring

[SB 975](#) Licensing

[SB 991](#) County Supervisor Perform Marriage

[SB 1099](#) Business Regs/Date

[SB 1103](#) Student Aid Commission Website

[SB 1165](#) PUC Intervenor Fees

[SB 1255](#) Wage Stubs

[SB 1299](#) Victims of Crime: Compensation

[SB 1390](#) Sports Wagering

[SB 1463](#) Internet Gambling

[SB 1510](#) Small Business Certification

[SB 1550](#) Community Colleges: Extension Courses

## ***PV Chamber address takes on farewell tone***



**Wright addresses the Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber Legislative Lunch.**

Senator Wright addressed attendees of the Palos Verdes Chamber Legislative Lunch, saying how deeply saddened he is to lose the Peninsula in redistricting.

Wright was met by applause when spoke fondly and at length about horseback riding

in Rolling Hills Estates. He reminded everyone that issues are neither blue nor red and that he has tried to be a legislator for everybody he represents. RHE Councilman John Addleman called Wright their best Senator ever and said how sorry he is to see him go. This year's luncheon also featured Senator Ted Lieu and Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe.

## **Justice for Murdered Children**

Senator Wright was honored by the non-profit [Justice for Murdered Children \(JFMC\)](#) at an event in Carson recognizing



**Wright and Jim Dear flip pancakes for JFMC.**

National Crime Victim's Rights Week. Mayor Jim Dear hosted the event, along with LaWanda Hawkins, who founded JFMC in 1996 when her only son, Reggie, was murdered. Just the week before the event, a bill by Wright to improve crime victim compensation programs in California advanced in the State Senate. Wright and Dear donned aprons Saturday and helped man the grill for a pancake breakfast supporting the organization's efforts.

## **Hawthorne State of the City Address celebrates business growth and Beach Boys' anniversary**

Hawthorne leaders thought Senator Wright and Assemblyman Bradford overdressed for the recent Hawthorne State of the City Address and corrected the problem by cutting their ties! (Neckties, that is; they are quite happy with their ties to the City...) Turns out residents were celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beach Boys – local boys who made it big – by donning beach attire for the annual event.

Mayor Daniel Juarez gave the annual address, speaking about the large number of small businesses the City has welcomed, as well as several large ones that are expected to create many jobs. Juarez also talked about the re-opening RFK Hospital and the Hawthorne Mall and called on City staff to balance the budget.



**Assemblyman Bradford, Congresswoman Waters, Mayor Juarez and Senator Wright – minus his tie -- pose as Jan Vogel, Executive Director of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board, speaks.**



**Wright talks with Brandy Salon owner Jim Jenkins and CUSD's Emma Sharif.**

## **Compton businesses rally to support Holiday Parade**

It was Christmas in April at the Compton Chamber of Commerce and Friends Mixer, a fundraiser held at Brandy Salon to support the City of Compton Holiday Parade. Senator Wright was surprised and amused to find festive decorations and attendees decked out in holiday attire.

Wright spoke with Compton Chamber of Commerce business owners and attendees about the value of local business and the importance of having the Holiday Parade once again. Wright took the opportunity to hand out [brochures highlighting the legislative battles and community events](#) he has been involved in during his first term in the California State Senate.



## West Athens-Westmont Task Force talk touches wide range of issues

At a recent meeting of the West Athens-Westmont Task Force, Senator Wright greeted attendees and spoke to them on a variety of topics. Wright spoke about the state budget and the fight it will take to save stage-three child care. The Senator spoke on vision issues with students, unemployment and the Governor's tax initiative, in addition to answering some questions from participants on gang intervention funding.



Senator Wright speaks to West Athens-Westmont Task Force.

## Wright engages in Q&A with Watts Gang Task Force



Senator Wright attends the Watts Gang Task Force meeting.

Senator Wright attended a recent Watts Gang Taskforce, speaking to attendees and fielding questions from the participants. In his remarks, Wright discussed the Governor's tax initiatives, the use of recycled water in the City of Los Angeles and his efforts to get legislators to don hoodies in a call for justice for slain Florida teen Trayvon Martin. Wright also answered the group's questions on the recycled water issue. LA City Councilman Joe Buscaino was also in attendance.

## Symposium focuses on the role of fathers in their children's lives

Hundreds attended the "State of the Black Male Symposium" held by [Great Beginnings for Black Babies, Inc.](#) and [Healthy African American Families II](#) at The California Endowment in LA. The program focused on "Putting the Father Back in Family." Senator Wright spoke about the black male experience, being a father and state funding. GBBB introduced Wright by touting his advocacy for fathers' rights and fair child support laws.



Rae Jones, Senator Wright and Roderick Elzy at the State of the Black Male Symposium.

## Social workers talk with Wright about child abuse prevention

Senator Wright spoke to participants, primarily social workers, at the Los Angeles County Family and Children Community Advisory Council's African American Child Abuse Prevention Workshop. Topics he touched on



Wright discusses abuse prevention.

included the state budget for social services, prison re-alignment and unemployment. Wright told the child welfare social workers present how important their job is to the well-being of children, and how much they should be valued by their community.

## Installation of Pastor Scott



Wright congratulates Pastor Scott on his installation.

Senator Wright spoke at a banquet celebrating the installation of Pastor Shane Scott at Macedonia Baptist Church in Los Angeles. The Senator congratulated Scott and presented him with a Senate certificate.

## Washington Prep faculty honored

Senator Wright honored the devoted faculty of his alma mater at the recent Washington Prep Faculty Appreciation banquet. Wright greeted the crowd of about 80 people, with guests including alumni, past principals, LAUSD board member Marguerite LaMotte Poindexter and Local Superintendent George McKenna. He also presented certificates to those being honored.



Wright talks with Marguerite LaMotte Poindexter.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

*Please don't hesitate to contact our Inglewood District Office if you require assistance in any of these areas:*

- Medi-Cal
- Auto insurance
- Consumer complaints
- Unemployment insurance
- Child support and child care
- Disability insurance
- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Workers' compensation
- Franchise Tax Board
- Government forms and applications
- Complaints about state departments
- Small business assistance

*If you have an idea for a local project, or have a problem with a state or local agency that is not getting solved, our office can also:*

- Mediate between you and government agencies or offices;
- Assist you in obtaining funding for local projects, such as bikeways, parks, schools, or senior citizen programs;
- Bring state experts into your community for technical assistance or advice on local issues;
- Help communicate your concerns to local, state and federal officials;
- Bring state administrators into your community so they hear first-hand about local needs;
- Visit your neighborhood or group to discuss state legislation or programs.

### Cesar Chavez honored at Inglewood celebration

Senator Wright spoke to the assembled crowd at the City of Inglewood Cesar Chavez Celebration, discussing the importance of what Chavez did to ensure farmworkers equal rights. Wright's office also staffed a booth at the well-attended event, providing district residents with information on state resources that are available to them.



**Senator Wright, Councilman Eloy Morales, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Bishop Johnny Young and Assemblyman Steven Bradford.**



**HACLA's John King, Senator Wright, SHIELDS Executive Director Kathy Icenhower, Audrey Tousant and Patrick Kennedy.**

promote workforce development, improved health and wellness, safety, youth development and early childhood education. The kick-off event featured health screenings and immunizations for children. The Senator also presented a certificate to SHIELDS in recognition of their work on behalf of kids and families.

### Wright helps SHIELDS kick off Family 1<sup>st</sup> at Jordan Downs

A rap by Senator Wright himself was just part of the entertainment, as [SHIELDS for Families](#) held a kick-off event for the Family First initiative at Jordan Downs, in conjunction with the Housing Authority of Los Angeles. SHIELDS sponsors 30 programs to address human needs, in an effort to reduce the number of babies born addicted to drugs, help children succeed and help families break the cycle of poverty. [Family First](#) seeks to

### "Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope" provides food to thousands

Senator Wright and other elected officials were on hand as [Heart of Compassion Distribution](#) and SEIU 721 put on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope" Food Bank at Ted Watkins Park in South Los Angeles. 1,300+ families went home with enough groceries for two weeks, including fruits, vegetables and canned goods. Wright spoke about celebrating Cesar Chavez Day and remembering the farmworkers who pick the food they eat.



**Wright with Pastor Tony Leon from Ministerio No Temas.**

### California State Senator Roderick D. Wright – District 25

Senator Wright represents the communities of Alondra Park, Athens, Compton, Gardena, Florence-Graham, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Ladera Heights, Lawndale, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Palos Verdes Peninsula, San Pedro, Watts, Westchester, Westmont and Willowbrook

Website: <http://www.senate.ca.gov/wright>

E-mail: [Senator Roderick D. Wright](mailto:Senator.Roderick.D.Wright)

**Capitol Office**  
State Capitol, Room 5064  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 651-4025

**District Office**  
One Manchester Blvd., #600  
Inglewood, CA 90301  
(310) 412-0393